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Our Case No. 4865-162

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)		
	)		
David E. Daws, et al.	)		
Serial No.:	Not yet assigned	)	Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filing Date:	September 5, 2003	)	Group Art Unit No.: Not yet assigned
For:	HARDWARE ASSEMBLY FOR CVI/CVD PROCESSES	)	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter the following preliminary amendment in the subject application.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, please insert before the first sentence the following sentence:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/933,465, filed August 20, 2001, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Replace the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 17 with the following clean version of the respective paragraph:

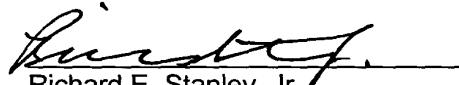
Generally speaking, manufacturing carbon parts using a CVI/CVD process involves placing preformed porous structures in a furnace and introducing a high temperature reactant gas to the porous structures. A variety of porous structures and reactant gases may be used, but typically, a fibrous carbon porous structure is used with a reactant gas mixture of natural gas and/or propane gas when carbon/carbon aircraft brake disks are manufactured. As well understood by those in the art, when the hydrocarbon gas mixture flows around and through the porous structures, some of the carbon atoms separate from the hydrocarbon molecules, thereby depositing the carbon atoms within the interior and onto the surface of the porous

structures. As a result, the porous structures become more dense over time as more and more of the carbon atoms are deposited onto the structures. This process is sometimes referred to as densification because the open spaces in the porous structures are eventually filled with a carbon matrix until generally solid carbon parts are formed. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,480,678 and 5,853,485 to Rudolph et al., hereby incorporated by reference, also describe in detail additional aspects of CVI/CVD processes.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Cancel claims 1-23 and 52-56.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Stanley, Jr.  
Registration No. 45,662  
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610  
(312) 321-4200